



# NEWS RELEASE

Montana State Prison, 400 Conley Lake Road, Deer Lodge, MT 59722 (406-846-1320) (Fax: 406-846-2950) Linda Moodry PIO

## MONTANA STATE PRISON For Immediate Release

**DATE:** July 2, 2013

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Inmate Dean Jess, #2094346

On July 1, 2013, Inmate Dean Jess escaped from Montana State Prison. We were notified of the escape at 1100 hours at which time an Incident Command Post was established and the search started. The vehicle Inmate Jess was driving was found at approximately 1130 hrs. about 1.5 miles south of prison property.

A search ensued with members of Powell County Sheriff's Office, Anaconda Police Department, Montana Highway Patrol, and staff from Montana State Prison. In addition to the ground search, the Montana Highway Patrol provided a helicopter for aerial surveillance yesterday evening, and the Department of Homeland Security provided aerial surveillance this morning.

The area Inmate Jess disappeared is very rugged and covered in trees and brush. Searches of the area turned up no signs of Inmate Jess. An investigation into his recent activity at the prison is being conducted, but he was not a problem inmate and had worked in Motor Vehicle Maintenance since 2006. As the investigation unfolds, we will share the information when we can. At this time it is believed Inmate Jess acted alone.

I would like to thank Sheriff Howard, Chief Barkell, and Lt. Colonel Butler for their assistance, as well as the great job by the staff and supervisors at Montana State Prison. We will continue to be diligent in attempting to locate Inmate Jess, and would like to reassure the community Montana State Prison is a secure environment and successful escapes from the prison are a rarity.

Leroy Kirkegard, Warden-Montana State Prison

Gayle Lambert, Montana Correctional Enterprises

Scott F. Howard, Powell County Sheriff